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INCREASE IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Nearly 40,000,000 of the 105,000,000 people in the United States are directly affiliated with some one of the several religious denominations. Looking back 25 years it is seen that church membership in this period has nearly doubled, while the population has increased but 55 per cent.

It was freely predicted that the war would have the effect of increasing respect for religion, but the growth recorded in census reports shows a gradual rather than a spectacular increase in church affiliation if that may be taken as an index of religious feeling. The war did emphasize spiritual values and perhaps by so doing drove quite a number into the extreme of materialism, once the tension was released, as it made converts for the first in new life of which membership in a church is but one of many possible outward symbols.

The orgy of materialism that immediately followed the war—no overlooking the materialism that was manifest during its probably—today as great a force for the vision of religion as any that could be devised. And this materialism exhibited in eating, drinking, spending, competing in display with one's neighbors, and in the general emphasis on the exterior rather than on the interior values, was the culmination of long years of such false ideals of life. Ideals that from their natural and inevitable outlet in a clash of arms involving the whole world. But every poison has its antidote, and the antidote to this was being formed even while the effects of the poison seemed at its height. The antidote is the vision of a life which recognizes, not with lip service only, but with a conviction, flowering in daily common life, that spirit is eternally above matter, and the things of the spirit eternally above all that matter in its several guises as wealth and power and position can offer.

But the essentials of religion are limited to no one church, no one creed, no one dogma. It is natural, however, to infer that, while many spiritually-minded men and women for reasons of their own remain outside the church, a goodly number of those within are there because they realize, either dimly or clearly, that the fundamentals of religion offer the only cure possible for the ills of a civilization which in the past has rather overstressed the triumphs of science, invention and other material agencies over the immortal factors in living. Increasing church attendance, within these limits, is an encouraging sign.

WAR MADE SOLDIER BETTER MAN

Much pessimism has prevailed in America as elsewhere concerning the spiritual aspect of the war, but a more cheerful view of one of the results of the conflict is held by Rev. Henry Talbot of Washington, who asserts that the average doughboy is a better man for having been in the army. Canon Talbot is only reflecting the opinion of many of us who observe the former soldier. We know that to make general the statement that the war brought out permanently the baser human attributes of those who became the defenders of our country is gross libel. The boy we knew before the war is no worse morally for his experience, and in many instances his character has improved.

It seems that there could be no other logical result. When a lad severed the home ties, he put himself into a position where he must necessarily do some serious thinking about the future. With not only the possibility but the probability that he never again would see the ones who loved him and whom he loved, it is not likely that his trend of thought did not tend toward that which is uplifting and of a kind to develop a strong moral fiber.

The clean-living youth who went to war still is as pure as he ever was, with the added experience which makes him more firm in his belief as to what road to follow, and the few others are no worse than they would have been anyway. Aside from physical effects we must believe that the soldier is a better man for his experiences. Let us grant him that, for it is little enough compensation.

When a woman storekeeper in Chicago showed fight, a bandit leapt through a window to the street. It is deduced that the bandit was a married man.

NO "COLONEL HOUSE" NEEDED

Political observers at the capital who had been wondering who could be the "colonel" of the new administration, have come to the conclusion that there will be no person filling that role. As the Washington Star puts it, "President Harding will be his own 'Colonel House'."

Even those who were friendly to the preceding administration admitted quite generally that Mr. Wilson, owing to his peculiar temperament, required the services of a "colonel" to keep him in touch with important information. The public, armed with some justifiable misapprehensions, viewed the apparently delicate and most vital missions of an unofficial personage, but never reason to believe now that Colonel House displayed much discretion and perhaps saved his place from mistakes that might have been made. There were numerous unofficial ambassadors and special secretaries of Mr. Wilson of whom this could not be said, as developments in his past life have shown. Mr. Wilson, officially appointed a representative of the United States government at the peace conference, but his fame has always been associated with his work as a purely private and personal agent of Mr. Wilson.

President Harding's natural inclination is to follow the precedent established for the conduct of his high office and to perform all his duties in the prescribed manner and spirit of the constitution, but he would have little use anyway for personal, private agents because he is accustomed to mix with the outside world, to meet all sorts and conditions of men and obtain views at first hand. A diplomatic connecting link between the executive and legislative branches of the government is not required. If Mr. Harding wants to talk to a man he does so face to face and not through a third party. And Washington correspondents say he recently talked in extremely plain terms to some gentlemen who were acting as spokesmen on the wheels of progress.

Granting that a Colonel House was a necessary appendage of the previous administration, we may be glad that President Harding requires no such assistance.

GUIDES WARNED TO TELL TRUTH TO SIGHTSEERS

(By Associated Press)
 SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., July 1.—True stories must be told to tourists by licensed guides who show strangers through San Francisco's points of interest, the police here ruled today when they learned that wild tales of drug dens, long murders and slave girls were related to visitors on sightseeing tours. Barges of the guides will be taken up, it was announced, if they stray from the mild facts.

Police action was taken when Detective Sergeant John L. Manion, on duty in Chinatown, stopped one night to listen to a guide telling strange stories to a party of 132 tourists.

"Stand close to me," the guide said, according to Manion. "Don't scatter. Shooting may start at any time. On this very spot last night a pitched battle was fought in which 14 Chinese were killed or injured."

Another guide, pointing to the Chinese Native Sons building, was heard to say: "This is the Chinese police station. No white man has ever entered. Words, even in our own language, cannot describe what goes on behind its barred doors. The dead are floated off in the sewers beneath."

Before entering a family residence building in the Chinese quarter, a number of tourists were told to pass through it quickly. "This is a 'hop joint,'" the guide asserted. "The fumes are so strong you can even acquire the drug habit by loitering in the passages. The duty collected on the drugs used here pays the salary of every government official in the port of San Francisco."

Police hope to stop the telling of these tales. "Hereafter all fabrications are ruled out," Manion said. "Only straight stuff goes."

Fine, Plain Hats for Children



A TITTLE more passed her third birthday, the little girl arrives at the time when her mother's experiences and tastes in her child's life. If it is a question of hats, the mother must choose wisely. Hats for children should be of simple design, but with a touch of style. The French sailor hat is a very successful for girls from seven to sixteen years of age. It is the wide-brimmed French sailor shape in mill, with its brim edged with a flange of the brim in a darker color or shade than that in the body of the hat. It has a wide collar and each side of heavy ribbon. At the right of it another little bonnet—shape for younger girls answers with some women's shape. Its drooping brim and soft crown. Below is another variation of the French sailor revealing a sharper upturn in the brim and larger crown than the first sailor. For a very little more one may select a bonnet with miller brim and satin crown, or the very elegant model which flatters the group—a square-crowned poke with handsome wide ribbon furnishing a sash with long ends.

A few of the prettiest models in millinery are the group above. At the upper right a little girl of four or five years is shown wearing a hat of the French sailor shape with a wide collar and each side of heavy ribbon. At the right of it another little bonnet—shape for younger girls answers with some women's shape. Its drooping brim and soft crown. Below is another variation of the French sailor revealing a sharper upturn in the brim and larger crown than the first sailor. For a very little more one may select a bonnet with miller brim and satin crown, or the very elegant model which flatters the group—a square-crowned poke with handsome wide ribbon furnishing a sash with long ends.

Julia Bottomley
 Copyright by Western Newspaper Union

RUSH ON TO RICH GOLD STRIKE IN NORTH CANADA

(By Associated Press)
 THE IAS, Manitoba, July 1.—Gold fever has temporarily displaced excitement here attendant to the rush to the gold fields and prospectors are leaving daily for the scene of the expected rich mineral strike.

Reports of ore bodies rich in gold content having been uncovered from several sections, but the richest as reported at Elbow lake in the Athabasca low lake mineral area and east of the famous Gordon dyke discovered last summer. Elbow lake is about 200 miles northwest of The Pas.

Mining men who have visited the spot have returned here with an account of a vein 60 feet wide wherein free gold is freely seen. Until it is mined, they declare, however, it is possible only to approximate the value and tonnage.

Other prospectors who visited the region following the report of the strike declare that a mineral body 10 feet wide and traced for 250 feet in length has been uncovered, throughout which free gold is heavily deposited. One prospector had 10 pounds of ore, of which the gold content was estimated at not less than 2 per cent. These samples are considered the richest ever brought here.

Another strike, the exact location of which is vague, also has thrown prospectors into the throes of gold fever. The cause of the excitement was the recent arrival of a party who investigated a claim which furnished an old Indian trapper, about 70 miles northeast of here, with a number of small nuggets.

A falling off in stunt aviators is reported.

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